Safety Standards of Atomic Power Plants

3570. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a growing tendency in the developed countries to abandon the use of Atomic Power Plants since these are not safe;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the international safety standards; and

(d) how many of them are followed in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Electricity Generation by Nuclear Energy in the world increased by about 26% during the period 1990—99 as per information available. Although there has been slowing down in nuclear power capacity addition in U.S.A., Canada and Western Europe, this is to be looked at in the context of their self sufficiency in meeting the electricity demand with a high level of per capita electricity consumption, stagnant population growth as well as easy access to other energy sources. It cannot be attributed to safety reasons. Safety in nuclear power plants are getting continuously upgraded world over to meet the emerging concerns from time to time including lessons learnt from Chernobyl and Three Mile Island incidents. The nuclear capacity addition is now centered in Asia.

(c) and (d) Most of the countries building and operating nuclear power plants have their own safety standards. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has published several safety standards which are generally accepted and followed in many countries. The nuclear safety standards followed in India are prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) based on IAEA standards.

Non-Availability of Hindi Type Writer

†3571. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such offices in the Department of Atomic Energy where there is not a single Hindi typewriter;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for not procuring Hindi typewriter, so far, alongwith the names of the officers responsible for such negligence; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that the targets fixed for purchase of Hindi typewriters in the annual programme released by the Department of Official Language relating to implementation of Hindi are properly achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) All Constituent Units of the Department of Atomic Energy have procured Hindi typewriters/electronic bilingual typewriters.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The target fixed in the annual programme 1999-2000, released by the Department of Official Language, in respect of typewriters is that hundred per cent electronic typewriters should be purchased in bilingual form. Action has been taken accordingly.

Sino-Pak Talk

3572. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 17th January, 2000 under caption "Terrorism, Kashmir to dominate Sino-Pak talks"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) During the visit of General Pervez Musharraf to China on February 17-18, 2000, Chinese official media quoted China's President Jiang Zemin as having stated that he would like to see a more stable and prosperous Pakistan in the future. Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji was reported as having stated that irrespective of international or domestic changes, the Chinese Government will continue to foster its comprehensive with Pakistan.

While it is for China and Pakistan to decide the nature of their relationship, we remain concerned at certain aspects of this relationship which adversely affect our security. This includes Sino-Pak defence co-operation